

Serial No. 10/669,226
Examiner: R. Siconolfi
Art Unit: 3683
September 27, 2004
Page 2

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A slack adjuster for a vehicle brake, said slack adjuster comprising:
a slack adjuster body having a cylindrical inner surface at least partially defining a chamber in said body;
a worm gear received in said chamber in said body; and
at least one low friction ring engaging said worm gear and said body and supporting said worm gear for rotation in said chamber in said body.
2. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 1 wherein said worm gear has a gear tooth portion between first and second end portions, said slack adjuster comprising a first and second low friction rings on opposite ends of said gear tooth portion of said worm gear.
3. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 2 wherein said worm gear has first and second shoulders on opposite ends of said gear tooth portion, said first low friction ring being located on said first shoulder and said second low friction ring being located on said second shoulder.
4. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 3 wherein said low friction rings provide both axial and radial support of said worm gear in said body.
5. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 3 wherein said low friction rings are made from nylon.
6. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 3 wherein said low friction rings are made from oil-impregnated bronze.
7. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 2 wherein said low friction rings are split rings.

Serial No. 10/669,226
Examiner: R. Siconolfi
Art Unit: 3683
September 27, 2004
Page 3

8. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 1 wherein said low friction ring provides both axial and radial support of said worm gear in said body.

9. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 1 wherein said low friction ring comprises a cylindrical sleeve received in said chamber in said slack adjuster body, said worm gear having a gear tooth portion between first and second lands, said sleeve being axially co-extensive with said gear tooth portion and with said lands of said worm gear, said lands engaging said sleeve to support said worm gear in said body.

10. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 9 wherein said sleeve is made from nylon.

11. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 9 wherein said sleeve is made from oil-impregnated bronze.

12. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 10 further comprising a worm for adjusting said slack adjuster, said sleeve having an opening for allowing said worm to project into said sleeve to engage said worm gear.

13. (original) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 9 wherein said sleeve is a split sleeve.

14. (withdrawn) A method of remanufacturing a slack adjuster comprising the steps of:

removing a worm gear and at least one low friction ring from a body of the slack adjuster;

setting aside the removed low friction ring;

putting the worm gear and at least one new low friction ring into the body.

Serial No. 10/669,226
Examiner: R. Siconolfi
Art Unit: 3683
September 27, 2004
Page 4

15. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein said step of putting the worm gear and at least one new low friction ring in the body comprises sliding a sleeve into the body, the sleeve having a cutout for a worm to engage with the worm gear.
16. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 15 wherein said step of putting the worm gear and at least one new low friction ring in the body comprises putting two low friction rings into the body together with a worm gear having two shoulders for receiving the two low friction rings.
17. (new) A slack adjuster for a vehicle brake, said slack adjuster comprising:
a slack adjuster body having a cylindrical inner surface at least partially defining a chamber in said body;
a worm gear received in said chamber in said body; and
means for engaging said worm gear and said body and for supporting said worm gear for rotation in said chamber in said body.
18. (new) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 17 wherein said means comprises a low friction ring.
19. (new) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 18 wherein said means comprises a plurality of low friction rings.
20. (new) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 17 wherein the worm gear has a gear tooth portion between first and second end portions, said means comprising first and second low friction rings on opposite ends of the gear tooth portion of the worm gear.
21. (new) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 20 wherein the worm gear has first and second shoulders on opposite ends of the gear tooth portion, the first low friction ring being located on the first shoulder and the second low friction ring being located on the second shoulder.

Serial No. 10/669,226
Examiner: R. Siconolfi
Art Unit: 3683
September 27, 2004
Page 5

22. (new) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 21 wherein the low friction rings provide both axial and radial support of the worm gear in the body.

23. (new) A slack adjuster as set forth in claim 17 wherein the means comprises a cylindrical sleeve received in the chamber in the slack adjuster body, the worm gear having a gear tooth portion between first and second lands, the sleeve being axially co-extensive with the gear tooth portion and with the lands of the worm gear, the lands engaging the sleeve to support the worm gear in the body.